

We Claim:

1. A suction adapter for use with first and second medical devices capable of accommodating suction, comprising:

a manifold having at least three ports, the ports including a suction port configured for connecting to a suction source, a first device port configured for accommodating the first medical device, and a second device port configured for accommodating the second medical device; and

a flexible flow valve having an opening, the flexible flow valve located between the first device port and both the second device port and the suction port.

2. The suction adapter of claim 1, wherein the first device port is configured for accommodating an endoscope, and the second device port is configured for accommodating a suction device.

3. The suction adapter of claim 1, wherein the flexible flow valve includes a membrane

4. The suction adapter of claim 3, wherein the membrane has at least three flaps.

5. The suction adapter of claim 4, wherein the flaps are separated from each other by cuts in the membrane.

6. The suction adapter of claim 4, wherein the flaps are separated from each other by folds in the membrane.

7. The suction adapter of claim 4, wherein the flaps overlap.

8. The suction adapter of claim 4, wherein the opening of the flexible flow valve includes gaps between the flaps.

9. The suction adapter of claim 1, wherein the flexible flow valve includes a plurality of first flaps each having a first shape and alternating with a plurality of second flaps each having a second shape, the first shape differing from the second shape.

10. The suction adapter of claim 9, wherein the flexible flow valve includes a membrane and the flaps are separated from each other by cuts in the membrane.

11. The suction adapter of claim 9, wherein the flexible flow valve includes a membrane and the flaps are separated from each other by folds in the membrane.

12. The suction adapter of claim 1, wherein the opening of the flexible flow valve is substantially centrally located.

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13. The suction adapter of claim 1, wherein the flexible flow valve is substantially flat.

14. The suction adapter of claim 1, wherein the flexible flow valve is conical.

15. The suction adapter of claim 1, wherein the flexible flow valve is dome-shaped.

16. The suction adapter of claim 1, wherein the flexible flow valve is multi-prism shaped.

17. The suction adapter of claim 1, wherein the manifold and the flexible flow valve are manufactured as a single component.

18. The suction adapter of claim 17, wherein the manifold and the flexible flow valve are made of injection-molded bio-compatible plastic.

19. The suction adapter of claim 1, wherein the manifold includes two separately manufactured components, the components including a first component which includes the first device port and a second component which includes the suction port and the second device port.

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20. The suction adapter of claim 19, wherein the second component is a tee-connector.

21. The suction adapter of claim 1, wherein the manifold has a third device port configured for accommodating a third medical device.

22. The suction adapter of claim 21, including a second flexible flow valve with an opening, the second flexible flow valve located between the third device port and both the second device port and the suction port.

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